

"Yeah, how you doin'?" came the familiar gruff voice.

Any news? "They're done."

Done? When? "About 10 minutes ago."

Two hours passed before Gov. Rendell emerged with union and SEPTA leaders to announce the deal that ended the region's transit strike. Together, the governor and U.S. Rep. Robert A. Brady (D., Phila.) were called prime catalysts in events leading to the proposed settlement.

The duo worked like this: Rendell relied on his power over the state-created agency, and Brady relied on his patience to deal with the personalities of its managers and union leaders.

As for other officials, State Sen. Vincent J. Fumo (D., Phila.) was around but talking mostly through the ear of Brady. House Speaker John M. Perzel (R., Phila.) was set to jump in today, at a scheduled meeting at the Holiday Inn City Line, with SEPTA board chairman Pasquale T. "Pat" Dean.

And Mayor Street played a low-key role. He met with union leaders for five hours on Friday, phoned Deon later that day, and then made at least two calls to the governor late Sunday.

While Street was limited by strained ties with Harrisburg lawmakers, Rendell had "no choice" but to wade in, said J. Whyatt Mondesire, president of the Philadelphia chapter of the NAACP.

Rendell "could not have an election campaign gearing up after the holidays, and a bitter public-transit strike in his backyard," he said.

And Brady, Mondesire said, was "a natural bridge He talks a straight working-man's kind of language . . . and because he has political connections, the SEPTA people listen to him."

All involved with the negotiations said Brady—a labor leader from the carpenters' union and a peacemaker with a long record of settling feuds as a longtime head of the city's Democratic Party—cajoled them to talk, to keep talking, to talk until their minds could meet.

Brady "was very instrumental in this," said Jeffrey Brooks, president of Transport Workers Union Local 234.

Brady, of course, demurred—just as he did seven years ago at the end of the last SEPTA strike when he stood three rows deep at a news conference to announce a deal he helped broker to end that 40-day walkout.

"I just keep 'em talking, that's all," he said in yesterday's early hours. "They didn't talk for what—two, three days? This morning I met with the governor and Jeff at 8. They agreed to try and kick-start this thing back again. I told them, 'If you do, please don't stop until it's over. It's got to be done sooner or later, so why not do it sooner instead of later?'"

Brady was the first politician to visibly inject himself into the negotiations, turning up late Tuesday as the contract negotiations briefly resumed at the Crowne Plaza hotel.

Rendell, meanwhile, was the hands-on deal maker. He spoke out first from Harrisburg on Thursday, warning both sides that the strike was "killing" chances of getting the dedicated source of state funding that the perennially strapped SEPTA so sorely needs. And once in town, he said, he made a point of sitting down with Brooks and assuring him that SEPTA's pot of money for crafting a deal was finite—that it was all a matter of slicing it fairly.

That was the point made at a noon meeting on Sunday, where Brooks made his case to 50 or so mostly elected officials whom BRADY assembled at the Democratic City Committee headquarters.

"That's one thing we made clear to both sides," Rendell said. "If the strike goes on

too much longer, or if the settlement is not seen as affordable, then that seriously decreases our chances of getting dedicated funding."

City Councilman Michael A. Nutter said, "That meeting was certainly a part of what led to the contract."

All week long, Brady had been calling Brooks two or three times a day. Now, in what would be the final moments, Rendell and his staff stuck side by side with SEPTA's chief labor negotiator, Patrick Battel, from "basically 9 a.m. Sunday until we signed the memorandum of agreement at 5:30 a.m.," according to Battel. The governor, he said, "is a skilled mediator and a skilled politician."

To be sure, there were other factors.

"Looming in people's minds was the 40-day strike," said State Rep. Dwight Evans (D., Phila.). "People knew they could not afford to do that."

There was also, he said, the uncertain fate of SEPTA's financial future.

"Rendell's message was 'there is not going to be any new money,' and that is the same message Perzel and I were putting together as legislative leaders," Evans said.

As it turned out, that message was no longer needed.

LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA: CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a commendable and worthwhile non-profit organization which operates in my congressional district, the Legal Services of Northern Virginia.

Legal Services of Northern Virginia (LSNV) is celebrating its 25th year of providing free legal assistance and representation to those in our society who are unable to secure it on their own. The founders and staff of this invaluable organization have dedicated their time and energy to give voice to those who often go unheard.

The mission of Legal Services is to provide necessary legal assistance to low income individuals and families. The organization assists its clients on a wide range of issues including family law, consumer protections, housing, employment, and access to health care.

Through the work of LSNV, thousands of eligible residents in Northern Virginia have gained access to health care; moved into affordable housing, received over due child support payments to care for their children, and achieved citizenship in our great country.

Legal Services of Northern Virginia is an example of a great equalizer in our society. Without its extraordinary work and commitment of its staff, conscientious instructions and assistance, thousands of residents in Northern Virginia would not be able to pursue their legal rights and responsibilities.

Over the course of 25 years, LSNV has made sure that rights are more than theoretical concepts. It has worked to ensure that our laws and legal protections apply to all men and women equally, without regard to race, religion, or income level.

I am proud to stand before you today, in the House of the people, to recognize the great

accomplishments of Legal Services of Northern Virginia.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. BILL JANIS AS A FELLOW TO NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding member of the Traverse City, Michigan community, Mr. William G. Janis. On September 23, Mr. Janis was appointed a Fellow to Northwestern Michigan College. Mr. Janis' service to Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) stands as a shining example to us all.

Mr. Janis' service to NMC spans a wide range of roles including that of member and officer of the Board of Trustees; as a passionate leader and supporter in helping establish the Michigan Technical Education Center and as a life-long philanthropist whose efforts have helped establish the University Center, Dennon Museum Center, M-TEC and the Great Lakes Campus.

Born to George and Mary Janis in 1943, Mr. Janis is the oldest child in the Janis family. He attended school in Grosse Isle, Michigan and graduated from Grosse Isle High School in 1961. After graduation, he went on to serve his country in the United States Marine Corps. Upon being honorably discharged from the military, he continued his education at Michigan State University where Mr. Janis graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1970.

Upon graduating from Michigan State, Mr. Janis took a job with Century, Inc. in Wyandotte, Michigan. He worked in Wyandotte until he and seven employees moved the business to Traverse City, Michigan in 1974. Today, Mr. Janis is the owner and President of Century, Inc.; a business which employs two-hundred and eighty workers.

In 1976, Bill Janis and Susie Kildee exchanged marriage vows. Together, with their children from previous marriages, Eddie and Julie, they became a family. Bill and Susie Janis still reside in Traverse City where Mrs. Janis serves on a number of community boards and charities. Mr. Janis is an active member of the Munson Hospital Board, the Knife and Fork Club, and a Board Member of Huntington National Bank. In addition, Mr. Janis is also the owner of Leorie Vineyards in Traverse City and a partner in Black Star Farm's Winery.

Aside from his many business ventures, Mr. Janis remains an active member of the Detroit Men's Club and is an honorary member of the Michigan State Varsity Athletic Club. Mr. Janis is also an avid golfer with memberships to some of the country's most prestigious golf clubs including The Bear in North Palm Beach, Florida; Hobe Sound in Hobe Sound, Florida; The Medalist in Marshall, Michigan; and the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Bill Janis for being named a Fellow to Northwestern Michigan College and for his tireless service to the college and the organizations he provides with dedicated leadership. Beyond

his incredible credentials, leadership roles and accomplishments that span his lifetime, Mr. Janis has shown unwavering commitment to the people he has known throughout that time.

Mr. Janis is an example of true American ingenuity and a person who continues to generously devote himself to the ideals he values most: his family, his work and his community. We in northern Michigan and those throughout America who have benefited greatly from his work and contributions thank him for his efforts.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COLONEL JAMES KELLY, THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA'S FIRST ASTRONAUT AND PILOT OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "DISCOVERY" RETURN TO FLIGHT MISSION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor and congratulate Colonel James Kelly, the pilot of the recent space shuttle *Discovery* Return to Flight Mission and the University of Alabama's first astronaut.

Colonel Kelly earned his master of science in aerospace engineering from the University of Alabama in 1996. That same year, he applied for NASA's astronaut class. Colonel Kelly was one of 44 members and one of only 10 pilots selected out of 2,400 applicants.

Colonel Kelly has logged over 3,800 flight hours in more than 35 different aircraft. Additionally, he has logged over 643 hours in space. He served as pilot on both the STS-102 *Discovery* and the STS-114 *Discovery*. The STS-102 *Discovery* was the eighth shuttle mission to visit the International Space Station. The two-week, 5.8 million mile STS-114 *Discovery* Return to Flight Mission reaffirmed our confidence in NASA and America's successful future in space.

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to commend Colonel James Kelly for his commitment to excellence and his willingness to explore. I thank him for his dedication and brave service to this country.

THE HEALTH FREEDOM PROTECTION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Health Freedom Protection Act. This bill restores the First Amendment rights of consumers to receive truthful information regarding the benefits of foods and dietary supplements by codifying the First Amendment standards used by federal courts to strike down the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) efforts to censor truthful health claims. The Health Freedom Protection Act also stops the Federal Trade Commissions (FTC) from censoring truthful health care claims.

The American people have made it clear they do not want the federal government to

interfere with their access to dietary supplements, yet the FDA and the FTC continue to engage in heavy-handed attempts to restrict such access. The FDA continues to frustrate consumers' efforts to learn how they can improve their health even after Congress, responding to a record number of constituents' comments, passed the Dietary Supplement and Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA). FDA bureaucrats are so determined to frustrate consumers' access to truthful information that they are even evading their duty to comply with 4 federal court decisions vindicating consumers' First Amendment rights to discover the health benefits of foods and dietary supplements.

FDA bureaucrats have even refused to abide by the DSHEA section allowing the public to have access to scientific articles and publications regarding the role of nutrients in protecting against diseases by claiming that every article concerning this topic is evidence of intent to sell a drug.

Because of the FDA's censorship of truthful health claims, millions of Americans may suffer with diseases and other health care problems they may have avoided by using dietary supplements. For example, the FDA prohibited consumers from learning how folic acid reduces the risk of neural tube defects for 4 years after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended every woman of childbearing age take folic acid supplements to reduce neural tube defects. This FDA action contributed to an estimated 10,000 cases of preventable neural tube defects!

The FDA also continues to prohibit consumers from learning about the scientific evidence that glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate are effective in the treatment of osteoarthritis; that omega-3 fatty acids may reduce the risk of sudden death heart attack; and that calcium may reduce the risk of bone fractures.

The Health Freedom Protection Act will force the FDA to at last comply with the commands of Congress, the First Amendment, and the American people by codifying the First Amendment standards adopted by the federal courts. Specifically, the Health Freedom Protection Act stops the FDA from censoring truthful claims about the curative, mitigative, or preventative effects of dietary supplements, and adopts the federal court's suggested use of disclaimers as an alternative to censorship. The Health Freedom Protection Act also stops the FDA from prohibiting the distribution of scientific articles and publications regarding the role of nutrients in protecting against disease.

This legislation also addresses the FTC's violations of the First Amendment. Under traditional First Amendment jurisprudence, the federal government bears the burden of proving an advertising statement false before censoring that statement. However, the FTC has reversed the standard in the case of dietary supplements by requiring supplement manufacturers to satisfy an unobtainable standard of proof that their statement is true. The FTC's standards are blocking innovation in the marketplace.

The Health Freedom Protection Act requires the government bear the burden of proving that speech could be censored. This is how it should be in a free, dynamic society. The bill also requires that the FTC warn parties that their advertising is false and give them a chance to correct their mistakes.

Mr. Speaker, if we are serious about putting people in charge of their health care, then

shouldn't we stop federal bureaucrats from preventing Americans from learning about simple ways to improve their health. I therefore call on my colleagues to stand up for good health care and the First Amendment by co-sponsoring the Health Freedom Protection Act.

TED KOPPEL: HE KNOWS THE BURDEN OF THE IRAQ WAR MUST BE SHARED

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to appreciate the career and character of Ted Koppel, who is retiring after 25 years as a stalwart and honest news reporter on the show "Nightline."

Upon his retirement, he expressed some thoughts in the November 8, 2005 issue of the *Washington Post*. I applauded him then and I applaud him now for showing the photographs and naming the fallen in Afghanistan and Iraq on his show when others called him unpatriotic for that act to honor those killed in Afghanistan and Iraq. I applaud him for his statement in the *Washington Post* today. He remarked on the unshared burden of the war in Iraq. This is a topic I have brought up again and again. One tiny fraction of this nation bears the entire burden of this war.

Ted Koppel put it this way: "You don't fight a war and allow just a tiny fraction of the population to carry the burden. It's hard to make a case that the rest of us are sharing the burden of being at war when our taxes have been cut, not increased. There are no victory gardens. No one is being asked to do anything, really. That's why I thought it was important to show all those photographs and read all those names. . . ."

Ted, thank you. You have done a wonderful job for 25 years. Your honest reporting will be missed.

[From the *Washington Post*, Nov. 8, 2005]

HIS NIGHT IN THE SUN

AFTER 25 YEARS, TED KOPPEL IS LEAVING THE SHOW THAT DID IT HIS WAY

(By Howard Kurtz)

Given all the heat Ted Koppel took last year for reading the names of the hundreds of Americans killed in Iraq, he could be forgiven for claiming vindication over the huge coverage when the death toll hit 2,000 late last month.

The "Nightline" anchor believes a meaningless milestone has been overplayed by the media—and is happy to tell you why.

"If the administration was really doing what it ought to be doing, they—everyone from the president on down—would have explained we have to remain in Iraq with such clarity that everyone would understand the sacrifice of 2,000, or even 20,000, lives is essential," he says. "My complaint is that the administration has done a poor job of explaining why we're in Iraq. You don't fight a war and allow just a tiny fraction of the population to carry the burden. It's hard to make the case that the rest of us are sharing in the burden of being at war when our taxes have been cut, not increased. There are no victory gardens. No one is being asked to do anything, really. That's why I thought it was important to show all those photographs and read all those names, not as a way of saying the war is wrong."